

Sexual Assault Prevention and Response (SAPR) Program

7153 Fighter Dr.



(907) 551-2020/2033/2035

24/7 Sexual Assault Crisis Line

(907) 384-7272

Mission

The SAPR Program aims to develop and implement a victim support system that provides trauma-informed care focusing on individuality, maximizing survivor's choices, and seeking to restore a sense of control.

The mission of the SAPR Program is to provide support and advocacy to adult victims of sexual assault while promoting multidisciplinary collaborations that foster successful response efforts that attempt to,

- Reduce the harm to the victims in the immediate aftermath of the violence (i.e. ensuring victim safety, support and wellbeing)
- Provide a long-term response after sexual violence perpetration addressing the lasting consequences of victimization

Sexual Assault

Intentional sexual contact characterized by,

- Use of force
- Threats
- Intimidation
- Abuse of authority
- When the victim does not or cannot consent

The term includes a broad category of sexual offenses consisting of the following specific Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ) offenses: rape, sexual assault, aggravated sexual contact, abusive sexual contact, forcible sodomy (forced oral or anal sex), or attempts to commit any of these acts.

Consent

Words or overt acts indicating a freely given agreement to the sexual conduct at issue by a competent person. An expression of lack of consent through words or conduct means there is no consent. Lack of verbal or physical resistance or submission resulting from the accused's use of force, threat of force, or placing another person in fear does not constitute consent. A current or previous dating relationship or the manner of dress of the person involved with the accused in the sexual conduct at issue shall not constitute consent. There is no consent where the person is sleeping or incapacitated, such as due to age, alcohol or drugs, or mental incapacity.



Sexual Harassment

Unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature constitute sexual harassment when,

- (1) submission to such conduct is made either explicitly or implicitly a term or condition of an individual's employment,
- (2) submission to or rejection of such conduct by an individual is used as the basis for employment decisions affecting such individual, or
- (3) such conduct has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with an individual's work performance or creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive working environment.

Sexual harassment complaints are processed through the Equal Employment Opportunity Program.

Sexual Assault Response Coordinator (SARC)

The SARC serves as the primary point of contact for integrating and coordinating sexual assault victim care services for eligible recipients. Services may begin at the initial report of sexual assault and continue through disposition and resolution of issues related to the victim's health and wellbeing. The SARC assists unit commanders as necessary to ensure victims of sexual assault receive appropriate and responsive care.

SARCs and SAPR Victim Advocates are responsible by law and Department of Defense and Air Force Instructions to protect the confidentiality of both restricted and unrestricted reports. All communications between the victim and the SARC, SAPR VA, and/or VVAs will remain privileged except for minimum necessary to make an Unrestricted Report. Personnel who are selected, trained and credentialed to provide non-clinical crisis intervention, referral, and ongoing nonclinical support to adult sexual assault victims.

Sexual Assault Victim Advocate

Support will include providing information on available options and resources to victims. The Victim Advocate, on behalf of the sexual assault victim, provides liaison assistance with other organizations and agencies on victim care matters and reports directly to the SARC when performing victim advocacy duties.

- Information, referral, and assistance with coordination of services
- Crisis counseling
- Safety planning and coordination (i.e. protective orders)
- Assault related appointment's accompaniment
- Ongoing non-clinical support

In addition, Victim Advocates provide support to the Sexual Assault Response Program via administrative, outreach, and educational efforts.



Special Victims' Counsel (SVC)

Attorneys assigned to victims per victims' request to,

- Provide legal assistance to sexual assault victims through independent representation
- Build and sustain victim resiliency
- Empower victims
- Increase the level of legal assistance provided to victims

Victim/Witness Assistance Program (VWAP)

Once an investigation is initiated, a Victim/Witness Assistance Program (VWAP) Provider is available to,

- Assist sexual assault victims with exercising their federally mandated rights and with navigating the criminal justice system
- Provide information on services and resources
- Interact with lawyers and commanders
- Help ensure the victim's situation is respected, that victims have a voice in the process and that victims are kept informed of the status of the investigation and prosecution

The program,

- Mitigates the physical, psychological, and financial hardships suffered by victims and witnesses of offenses investigated by Air Force authorities
- Fosters cooperation between victims, witnesses, and the military justice system
- Ensures best efforts are extended to protect the rights of victims and witnesses

CATCH A Serial Offender Program

Provides adult sexual assault victims who file a Restricted Report with a mechanism to provide information related to the incident voluntarily and confidentially with the purpose of identifying commonalities across particular cases that lead to the identification of serial offenders.

Information provided to the CATCH program will be retained in the CATCH database for up to 10 years and can be updated at any time.

Restricted Reporting (Confidential)

Reporting option that allows sexual assault victims to confidentially disclose the assault to specified individuals (e.g., SARC, SAPR VA) and receive medical treatment, including emergency care, counseling, and assignment of a SARC and SAPR VA, without triggering an official investigation unless the victim consents or an established exception is exercised.

Includes the involvement of,

- SARC
- Sexual Assault Victim Advocate



- SVC
- Mental Health
- Medical Services

SAPR Restricted Reports require a signed DD Form 2910.

Unrestricted Reporting (Not Confidential)

A process by which an individual covered by this instruction uses to disclose, without requesting confidentiality or Restricted Reporting, that he or she is the victim of a sexual assault. The victim's report is reported to law enforcement and may be used to initiate the official investigation process. Includes the involvement of,

- SARC
- Sexual Assault Victim Advocate
- SVC
- Mental Health
- Medical Services
- Law Enforcement
- Command

SAPR Unrestricted Reports require a signed DD Form 2910.

Independent Investigation

An official law enforcement investigation not initiated by an unrestricted report filed within the SAPR program.

Mandated Reporting

- Healthcare providers can maintain confidentiality when receiving a report of a sexual assault and will immediately notify the SARC, SAPR VA, or VVA to discuss reporting options
- If a report is made to healthcare personnel, and it cannot reasonably be determined whether the report is intended to be Restricted, it will be treated as a Restricted Report, to the greatest extent possible, until the SARC can establish the victim's eligibility and intentions through the DD Form 2910
- Chaplains, Religious Affairs Airmen, legal assistance attorneys, defense counsel, and SVCs entitled to privileged communications cannot take an official Restricted Report. However, they will assist with contacting a SARC, SAPR VA, or VVA, with the victim's consent, to ensure that a victim is offered SAPR services if the victim chooses
- Victims may tell someone the sexual assault occurred and still maintain their Restricted Report, with a few exceptions
- AF instructors, with the exception of the United States AF Academy (USAFA) Instructors, are mandated reporters and must report their knowledge of a sexual assault
- If the victim's chain of command or law enforcement personnel is made aware of a sexual assault, they will immediately contact AFOSI to initiate an investigation and the SARC to provide SAPR services



- Individual state requirements and circumstances surrounding an independent investigation may eliminate the Restricted Reporting options for some victims

Barriers to Reporting Sexual Assault

Commanders (or equivalent) and leaders need to be aware of concerns that may deter a victim from reporting a sexual assault. The most common concerns are,

- Lack of privacy and confidentiality
- Stigma and shame based on the nature of the crime
- Fear of being reduced (e.g., appear as weak or less competent) in the eyes of one's commander (or equivalent) or colleagues
- Fear of disciplinary action due to collateral misconduct
- Fear of re-victimization
- Fear of operational impacts on training status, security clearance, and deployment
- Fear of adverse impact on the unit or mission
- Fear of harassment, retaliation, or reprisal from commanders (or equivalent) or colleagues
- Fear of not being believed

Reprisal

Taking or threatening to take an unfavorable personnel action, or withholding or threatening to withhold a favorable personnel action, for making, preparing to make, or being perceived as making or preparing to make a protected communication.

Retaliation

- The taking or threatening to take an adverse personnel action, or withholding or threatening to withhold a favorable personnel action, with respect to a military member because the member reported a criminal offense
- Ostracizing a military member, to include excluding from social acceptance, privilege or friendship with the intent to discourage reporting of a criminal offense or otherwise discourage the due administration of justice
- Maltreating a military member, to include treatment by peers or by other persons, that, when viewed objectively under all the circumstances, is abusive or otherwise unnecessary for any unlawful purpose, that is done with the intent to discourage reporting of a criminal offense or otherwise discourage the due administration of justice, and that results in physical or mental harm or suffering, or reasonably could have caused physical or mental harm or suffering

Eligibility for Services

Adult Service members in the,

- Active Duty
- National Guard
- Reserve Component



- Coast Guard
- Transitioning Service members
- AF civilian employees (including NAF)
- DoD civilian employees when stationed or performing duties outside of the U.S.
- U.S. citizen DoD contractor personnel when they are authorized to accompany Armed Forces in a contingency operation OCONUS and their U.S. citizen employees
- Dependents 18 years of age and older

In cases where a) adult military dependent sexual assault victims who are assaulted by a spouse or current or former intimate partner (victim is in an ongoing relationship with alleged offender and prior to the incident they engaged in sexual intercourse or other sexual acts in the course of a romantic relationship, or there is a demonstrated potential for an ongoing relationship and b) military dependents 17 years of age and younger are sexual assault victims, they receive services related to sexual assault through the Family Advocacy Program (FAP);

** Family Advocacy Domestic Violence Victim Advocates are available during business hours at 580-5858 or via 24/7 crisis line at (907) 519-9993.

Safe Helpline adheres to state mandatory reporting laws concerning persons under the age of 18 and the elderly.

Contacting the Nearest SARC

Option 1: Visit the DoD Safe Helpline (<https://safehelpline.org/search.cfm>) and locate the SARC closest to your location.

Option 2: Call your base operator and obtain the phone number for your base SARC.

Option 3: Contact the DoD Safe Helpline at 877-995-5247

DoD Safe Helpline is a secure, confidential, and anonymous crisis support service specially designed for members of the DoD community affected by sexual assault. Safe Helpline is available 24/7, worldwide. Safe Helpline staff provides live, one-on-one support to survivors, their families, and other DoD stakeholders. All Safe Helpline services are secure, confidential, anonymous, and available worldwide, providing survivors with the help they need, anytime, anywhere.

